



## MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** December 5, 2019

**Agenda Item:** 2020-2021 Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

**Background:** Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing 2019 structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

Some of the more substantial changes are:

- Region 3 - Close HD 301 adult ewe harvest.

- Close HD 302 adult ewe harvest.

- Re-open HD 380 and add a 380-10 ram license, quota 1.

- Region 6 - Extend east boundary of HD 622 to match Deer/Elk HD 631. This will simplify regulations and account for some recent expansion of sheep.

- Make 622-30 ewe license valid in entire HD instead of a portion.

These and all proposed changes are on the commission master list and justifications are in the commission packet.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Twenty bighorn sheep season comments were received during the Aug. 15 – Sep. 16 scoping. Comments varied, but some spoke to once-in-a-lifetime for licenses. In addition to public comment on proposed changes taken during the Dec. 5 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2020 commission meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 bighorn sheep hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the bighorn sheep season remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.